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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 9 February 1993 from the Observer for Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

We would like to draw the attention of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights to the continuing deterioration in the human rights situation in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel. Further to our earlier notes in that regard, the Israeli occupation authorities have continued to kill and injure Palestinians deliberately and in cold blood. During the last two days, the Israeli occupation authorities have killed 7 Palestinians and injured more than 70 others; hence the number of Palestinian martyrs killed rose to 35 while the number of those injured amounted to more than 400 since the deportation of 418 Palestinians outside their homeland on 17 December 1992; in other words, in less than two months.

Given these serious developments, Betzelem, the Israeli Centre for Human Rights, admitted that the number of Palestinians killed by Israel since the assumption of power by the Yitzhak Rabin Government is 20 per cent higher than that of the Palestinians killed during a similar period of time during the rule of Yitzhak Shamir.

While the Palestinians reaffirm their rejection of the Israeli occupation and look forward to obtaining their independence and living in peace with all their neighbours, the Israeli occupation authorities continue to kill, injure, torture and expel Palestinians from their homeland, by grave violations of the principles of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

We would be grateful if you could have this memorandum circulated as an official document of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, under agenda item 4.

(Signed): Nabil RAMLAWI
Ambassador and Permanent Observer